

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14

ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 110056

R 101747Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2461

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: SPD ANGER WITH GENSCHER STILL VISIBLE

1. FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPD AND THE FDP TO WORK OUT A COALITION AGREEMENT, A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, AND A NEW CABINET BEGAN DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 9. HOWEVER, THERE IS A SMALL BUT SO FAR QUITE ADAMANT GROUP WITHIN THE SPD WHICH STILL FEELS THAT GENSCHER STABBED BRANDT IN THE BACK AND IS SEEKING SOME WAY TO EXPRESS ITS ANGER. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THE VOTE MAY 15 FOR A PRESIDENT. SCHEEL WILL NEED AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY TO BE ELECTED ON EITHER THE FIRST OR THE SECOND BALLOT AND SHOULD, SAY 18 OR 19 SPD DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ABSTAIN, THEN

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SCHEEL COULD BE FACED WITH THE HUMILIATION OF BEING

ELECTED BY A SIMPLE PLURALITY ON THE THIRD BALLOT.

2. SHOULD THAT OCCUR, THEN IT MIGHT FOLLOW THAT THE FDP WOULD RETALIATE THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE ELECTION OF THE CHANCELLOR BY SEEING TO IT THAT SCHMIDT RECEIVES NO MORE THAN THE NECESSARY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY TO BE ELECTED. EVEN IF ALL THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT SCHEEL OR SCHMIDT ARE IN DAHGER OF NOT BEING ELECTED, THOUGH BOTH BALLOTS ARE SECRET. IT WOULD MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BEGIN ITS WORK IN A BITTER, DIVISIVE MOOD. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES ARE AWARE OF THIS AND WILL PROBABLY MANAGE TO COOL IT BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 15 SO THAT SCHEEL AND SCHMIDT WILL BE ELECTED ALL BUT UNANIMOUSLY BY THE COALITION. INDEED, ALL 535 SPD AND FDP DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION THAT WILL ELECT THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT MAY 15 WILL CAUCUS SEPARATELY MAY 14 TO HAVE THE NECESSITY OF PARTY DISCIPLINE REITERATED.

3. BECAUSE OF THIS DISCONTENT WITHIN THE SPD, HOWEVER, RUMORS PERSIST THAT HEINEMANN WILL STAY AS PRESIDENT AND SCHEEL WILL STAY AS VICE CHAHCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE A BREAK OF THE COALITION OVER GENSCHER. SIGNIFICANTLY, THESE ARE RUMORS THAT ARE HEARD IN PRESS CIRCLES RATHER THAN POLITICAL ONES AND ARE FAR TOO THIN IN SUBSTANCE TO BE WORTH AHYTHING BEYOND SIMPLY NOTING THEM. THERE IS, IN SUM, NO SERIOUS REASON AT THE MOMENT TO BELIEVE THAT THE EVENTS OF NEXT WEEK WILL FURTHER CONFUSE POLITICS IN BONN. HILLENBRAND

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